

Torrance, California
October 28, 1941

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF TORRANCE

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, on Tuesday, October 28, 1941 at 7:45 P.M.

Mayor McGuire called the meeting to order.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll, those answering present being Councilmen: Babcock, Hitchcock, Kail, Powell and McGuire. Absent: Councilmen: None.

All persons present in the Council Chamber Saluted the Flag!

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held September 23, 1941, of an Adjourned Regular Meeting held September 26, 1941, of a Special Meeting held September 30, 1941, of a Special Meeting held October 6, 1941, of an Adjourned Regular Meeting held October 20, 1941, be approved as written. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication, addressed to Dean L. Sears, President, and Directors, Torrance Chamber of Commerce, from Wm. A. Drennan, 2121 Border Avenue, Torrance, was read advising that the building at the North end of the Torrance Industrial Properties tract has recently been leased to a furniture factory. A contribution of \$1,500.00 was requested for use in connection with the proposed assembly plant to be located in the building situated on Border Avenue South of 222nd Street.

Councilman Powell moved that the communication be filed for

consideration. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Torrance Business Men's Association, signed by R. J. Deininger, Secretary, regarding Christmas decorations, a certain proposal being outlined, and requesting that Dale Riley be placed in charge of the work, including all electrical work.

Councilman Babcock moved that the City Clerk be instructed to notify the Torrance Business Men's Association to meet with the City Council for discussion of this matter, to arrive at some satisfactory agreement. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Frank Mallo, 24424 Los Codona Avenue, Welteria, requesting repairs to the alley in the rear of his house, asserting that the alley in its present condition is hazardous.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the matter be referred to the Street Department and City Engineer. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Maude Hammond Welch, expressing gratitude for prompt action of the Council in removing a tree stump from 800 Portola Avenue. Matter of record.

A communication was read from the Torrance Woman's Club, signed by Mrs. Charles Mitchell, President, requesting funds for maintenance of the Mothers' Educational Center in the amount of \$10.00 per month. It was advised further that said funds had been contributed heretofore by the Chamber of Commerce and the Community Service Association.

Mayor McGuire inquired whether or not it is possible to contribute the funds through the Chamber of Commerce, inasmuch as the City has no contract with said organization. Mr. McCall, City Attorney, advised that the funds can be allocated through the Chamber regardless of whether or not a contract exists as mentioned.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an allocation of \$10.00 per month be made, payable to the Chamber of Commerce, for maintenance of the Mothers' Educational Center. Councilman Kail seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Kail, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from the Asbury Rapid Transit System, signed by D. L. Campbell, advising that, effective October 31, 1941, said Company will be unable to furnish equipment (busses) to the City of Torrance.

Mr. Ward advised that the bus which has been rented from the Asbury Rapid Transit System has been returned to the Company.

A communication was read from Donald K. Lucas, Detectives and Police, Lomita Office, signed by Donald A. Creek, Manager, offering their Patrol House in Lomita as a bus station for the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines and outlining the services to be rendered by them in connection with this matter.

Councilman Babcock moved that the matter be referred to the City Council as a whole for further study and report. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from H. Sage Webster, Structural Engineer, 717 West 165th Place, Gardena, California, offering his services for the preparation of plans, specifications, etcetera, in connection with proposed buildings or structures within the jurisdiction of the City of Torrance, the purpose being to qualify the plans for issuance of a building permit.

A communication was read from Lee Parmelee, Room 444, 257 South Spring Street, Los Angeles, submitting a bid of \$585.00 for bringing to date the City's copy of the County Assessor's Map Book. A separate communication from Mr. Parmelee was read, offering to give the Map Book a yearly check up for \$185.00, this bid to cover one year only.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the communication be filed for future reference. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from J. E. McMaster, Fire Chief, recommending that \$277.00 be appropriated for installation of a 4" water line and hydrant at the White Manufacturing Company on Redondo Avenue, Mr. White having agreed to supply water for the hydrant until the \$277.00 has been consumed at the rate of \$2.00 per month hydrant rental.

Councilman Powell moved that \$277.00 be appropriated for installation of a 4" water line and hydrant at the White Manufacturing Company in compliance with Chief McMaster's recommendation. Councilman Kail seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Kail, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1500

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY
OF TORRANCE REQUESTING THE BOARD OF SUPER-
VISORS TO ORDER THE CANCELLATION OF TAXES
ON LOTS 18 AND 19, BLOCK 15, TORRANCE TRACT.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1500 be adopted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Kail, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Engineer Jain reported that Don Findley, Attorney, had contacted him and suggested that a contract be drawn up in connection with the former Crown Water Company in North Torrance, advising that they are now in a position to return same to the newly formed company on a monthly payment basis.

Councilman Powell moved that the City Attorney be authorized to draw up a contract between the City of Torrance and the owners of the former Crown Water Company for monthly payment (the amount to be established later) by the newly formed company to the City of Torrance of the amount expended by the City of Torrance in establishing the water company, for the purpose of returning said assets and equipment to the newly formed company. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Kail, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Engineer Jain reported that, in connection with the drainage problem at 231st Street and Narbonne Avenue, a survey had been conducted and it had been concluded that a reasonable solution to the problem would be a pit into which the storm water could drain. With this thought in mind, he said he had, without making any assertions as to what the City would or would not do, contacted the owner of the property and the man holding the oil lease to the property, who both seemed to favor the idea. He said that the dirt removed by excavation of the pit could be used as a retaining wall and replaced at any time conditions so warrant.

Councilman Hitchcock suggested that there might be objection from others to the presence of a water pit. Engineer Jain pointed out that there are numerous sump holes, and that an objection to a water pit, therefore, would not be likely to occur, at which time Councilman Hitchcock remarked that, in the event of casualties arising due to the presence of the water pit, the City would be entirely responsible, whereas the oil companies assume responsibility for all casualties arising due to the presence of sump holes. Mr. Jain said that, in regard to the hazard of a water pit, it would be no more hazardous than the water standing on the public streets. Mayor McGuire agreed that flooded streets are dangerous.

Regarding the Laguna-Dominguez drainage matter, Engineer Jain reported that a meeting had been attended October 28, 1941 at Inglewood, with numerous Cities and aircraft industries in attendance, at which time the plans had been presented to the Corps of Army Engineers, who took the matter under advisement and stated that a report will be rendered at a later date.

Engineer Jain made a few comments regarding the Cabrillo Avenue right of way formerly owned by the Pacific Electric Railway Company and recently abandoned by said company. A short discussion ensued regarding the removal of tracks and overhead equipment. Engineer Jain advised that a Public Works Administration grant will not be obtainable due to the fact that the City does not own the rails. Mr. Jain said that the City of Long Beach is engaged at the present time removing tracks, and that their method is comparatively simple, but requires a large crew of men.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Clerk be instructed to direct letters to the Cabrillo Avenue Improvement Association, The Torrance Business Men's Association, and all other interested persons, advising that a meeting will be held for discussion of the Cabrillo Avenue improvement and inviting suggestions, a date for the meeting to be arranged in the near future. Councilman Kail seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Powell moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$85.00, plus tax, be made for foundation for radio antennae tower for the Police Department. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Kail, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell stated that, in connection with the request of volunteer firemen that a flat guarantee minimum of \$10.00 per month to all call firemen for their services be established, a meeting will be held, with the Fire Chief and a member of the volunteer Fire Department in attendance, in the near future, the date to be decided later.

Councilman Powell moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$377.41 be made for 1 Goodnen Resuscitator and 1 Utility Kit, which allows a trade-in of \$100.00 for old equipment, for the Fire Department. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Kail, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that a payment be authorized to the Moneta Water Company of \$270.00 for rental of 6 Fire Hydrants, period July 1, 1939 to October 1, 1941 (27 months) @ \$10.00 per month; also that payment to Moneta Water Company of \$30.00 for 6 months' water service for trees be authorized. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Kail, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the renewal of lease and agreement with the Southern California Water Company (formerly American States Water Service) for 5 years be authorized. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Kail, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

In connection with this matter, Councilman Hitchcock advised that the City receives 25¢ per month per customer, and that 560 feet of 4" C. I. pipe had been laid on the north side of Gardena Boulevard, west from the east city limits.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$885.00 be made for purchase of road material for repairs on Lomita Boulevard. Councilman Kail seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Kail, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$400.00 be made for rental of a 12-ton roller for use in the Park Knoll Tract and on Lomita Boulevard. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Kail, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$375.00 be made for traffic paint for center stripes. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Kail, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the contract for construction of curb and pedestrian landings on Plaza del Amo be awarded to Vido Kovacevich, 5400 Imperial Highway, Southgate for the unit prices shown on their bid of October 20, 1941 as follows: 15" combination curb, \$0.61 lin. ft.; 3½" sidewalk (landings) \$0.18 lin. ft., being the lowest bid submitted, and that all other bids be rejected. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Kail, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Babcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$154.00 be made for repairs to six busses. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Kail, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor McGuire moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$110.21 be made for purchase of 2 chisel cutters and 1 tamper complete for the Water Department. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Kail, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor McGuire made the following Committee appointments:

ORDINANCE COMMITTEEChairman

L. V. Babcock

Kenneth H. Kail

G. V. Powell

RECREATION COMMITTEEChairman

Kenneth H. Kail

L. V. Babcock

G. V. Powell

Councilman Powell suggested that the City look into the matter of entering into contract for advertising space on the highways, there being a number of signs posted at various locations either directing persons to the City or advertising the City. This matter was formerly handled by the Chamber of Commerce. Mayor McGuire suggested that the Clerk be instructed to obtain from the Chamber of Commerce a list of the various signs and their locations.

Councilman Powell moved that the request from the Labor Council of Torrance, which was read at the October 20, 1941 meeting, for use of the Civic Auditorium for one evening, without charge, be granted. November 26, 1941 was mentioned as the probable date they will use said building. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

No oral communications.

Councilman Hitchcock moved all bills properly audited be paid. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Kail, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Babcock moved that the City Clerk be authorized to notify, by letter, all the persons who purchased tax deeded property at public auctions held by the City of Torrance, and which sales were subsequently cancelled due to a technical oversight (deposits being refunded to the various bidders), of an Adjourned Meeting to be held November 4, 1941 at 7:45 P.M. in the Council Chamber, City Hall, at which time they will be given an opportunity to again bid on the property they wish to purchase. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

At 8:43 P.M., upon motion of Councilman Hitchcock, seconded by Councilman Babcock, the meeting adjourned to November 4, 1941 at 7:45 P.M.

A. H. Bander
City Clerk of the City of Torrance

APPROVED:

Tom F. McGuire
Mayor of the City of Torrance